

Story #358 (Not on tape)

Informants: Children at Ayşe Abla  
İlkokulu

Narrator: Neriman Hızır (Ayşe Abla)

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The Hodja Solves A Problem

One day as the Hodja was strolling along the river, he heard a cry for help. Hurrying along the shore, the Hodja came to a group of his students splashing in the water after a good swim.

"Oh, Hodja effendi," called one of the boys, "we need your help. It is time for us to go home for lunch but we cannot get out of the water."

"And why not?" asked the Hodja.

"Well, Hodja effendi, when we came in to swim, each boy had his own legs. But we have been in so long that our legs are all mixed up. We cannot tell which legs are which. Please, Hodja effendi come in and help us!" And the boys grinned at each other, waiting to see how their teacher would solve this interesting dilemma.

The Hodja thought for a moment. Then he walked to a small willow tree and cut a supple switch. Carrying it to the edge of the river, he began to use it most effectively indeed on the arms and shoulders of the boys. Hastily one after another they clambered up the bank.

"There, now," smiled the Hodja when the last of the boys had come ashore. "You found your own legs, after all!"